

**CONGRESSMAN SHERWOOD BOEHLERT (R-NY)**  
**FLOOR STATEMENT ON ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS**  
**May 24, 2006**

Mr. Chairman:

I rise in strong support of this bill, and I want to thank Chairman Hobson and his staff for consulting closely and continuously with me, Chairman Biggert of our Energy Subcommittee, and the Science Committee staff as they put together this bill.

I think this bill very responsibly sets priorities in a very tight budget year. I want to draw my colleagues attention to the funding provided for the President's American Competitiveness Initiative, which is fully funded, and for the President's Advanced Energy Initiative, which is fully funded except for wise reductions on nuclear reprocessing, which I will discuss momentarily.

Under the American Competitiveness Initiative, funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Science is slated to double over 10 years, and this bill includes the first downpayment for that. The Office of Science provides much of the funding for physical science research in this country, and its budget has been essentially flat for years. This has meant, among other things, that the valuable facilities that taxpayers have already built and that are used by industrial and academic researchers, facilities like those at Brookhaven National Laboratory, sit idle for much of the year. This budget will change that.

I want to thank Secretary Bodman and Under Secretary Orbach for the long-needed attention they have brought to science programs at the Department.

As the National Academy of Sciences pointed out in its report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, the U.S. must substantially increase its investment in basic research in the physical sciences to remain competitive. This bill responds to that message.

This bill also responds to the President's call to treat our "addiction" to oil. One element of responding to that addiction has to be investing in research to come up with ways to reduce our use of fossil fuels. This bill provides such investment in a range of technologies, including biofuels, solar and wind energy, and nuclear energy. That's the kind of balanced portfolio we need.

Finally, I think this bill deals responsibly with the President's Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) proposal. We need research on whether we can get more energy out of spent nuclear fuel and on how to store it more readily, and on how to reduce the risks of proliferation. But we are hardly at the point to move ahead with a series of large-scale demonstration projects. This bill enables GNEP to move ahead at a defensible pace.

So I urge support of this bill, which will advance science, promote new energy technologies and protect U.S. competitiveness.